AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of the Claims:

1. (currently amended) An assembly for conveying packets (2)~~, in particular packets (2) of cigarettes,~~ comprising a first and a second conveyor (4, 5) for conveying the packets (2) at a first and a second travelling speed (V1, V2) respectively~~; the assembly (1) being characterized in that the first and the second conveyor (4, 5) extend~~ and extending side by side along at least a given portion (T) in a first direction (D1); ~~the assembly (1) comprising~~ and a transfer device (6) having a deflecting member (21) for transferring the packets (2) from the first (4) to the second (5) conveyor along said given portion (T); the deflecting member (21) comprising a drum (27) rotating about an axis (22) parallel to a second direction (D2) perpendicular to the first direction (D1) and having blades (28) for varying the orientation of said packets (2) during transfer from the first (4) to the second (5) conveyor; said blades (28) extending radially with respect to said axis (22) to rotate each packet (2) about the axis (22).

2. (canceled)

3. (canceled)

4. (currently amended) An assembly as claimed in Claim 1 ~~3~~, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ each blade (28) has a face (30) having suction holes for retaining one of said packets (2) during transfer between the first (4) and second (5) conveyor.

5. (currently amended) An assembly as claimed in Claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the first and second conveyor (4, 5) respectively comprise a first and a second supporting surface (10, 14) for said

packets (2); the first and second supporting surface (10, 14) being substantially coplanar along said given portion (T).

6. (currently amended) An assembly as claimed in Claim 5, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the first and second conveyor (4, 5) comprise a first and a second belt (7, 11) for conveying the packets (2); the first and second belt (7, 11) respectively comprising a first and a second work branch (10, 11) defining the first and second supporting surface (10, 14) for said packets (2).

7. (currently amended) An assembly as claimed in Claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ said deflecting member (21) is movable in the first direction (D1) along said given portion (T).

8. (currently amended) An assembly as claimed in Claim 7, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ said transfer device (6) comprises a guide (18) parallel to said first direction (D1); and a carriage (19) which runs along said guide (18); said deflecting member (21) being fitted to said carriage (19).

9. (currently amended) An assembly as claimed in Claim 8, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ said transfer device (6) comprises a transmission member (23) for moving said carriage (19) along said guide (18).

10. (currently amended) An assembly as claimed in Claim 9, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the first conveyor (4) comprises a first drive member (15) for conveying said packets (2) on the first conveyor at the first speed (V1); and the second conveyor (5) comprises a second drive member (16) for conveying said packets (2) on the second conveyor (5) at the second speed (V2); the assembly (1) comprising a differential (32; 41) connected to the first drive member (15) and to the second drive member (16) to move said deflecting member (21) along said given portion (T) at a given transfer speed (V3) as a function of the first and second speed (V1, V2).

11. (currently amended) An assembly as claimed in Claim 10, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ said differential is an epicyclic gear train (32) comprising a sun gear (33) connected to the first drive member (15); a planet carrier (34) connected to the second drive member (16); and a ring gear (35) connected to said transmission member (23).

12. (currently amended) An assembly as claimed in Claim 11, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ said deflecting member (21) comprises a third drive member (29) for rotating said deflecting member (21); and a control unit (37) for controlling said third drive member (29); said control unit (37) being connected to the first and second drive member (15, 16) to drive said third drive member (29) as a function of signals related to the first and second speed (V1, V2).

13. (currently amended) An assembly as claimed in Claim 10, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ said differential is an electronic differential (41), which emits a drive signal for driving a fourth drive member (42) for driving said transmission member (23).

14. (currently amended) An assembly as claimed in Claim 13, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ said deflecting member (21) comprises a third drive member (29) for rotating said deflecting member (21); and a control unit (37) for controlling said third drive member (29); said control unit (37) being connected to the first and second drive member (15, 16) and to said electronic differential (41) to drive said third drive member (29) as a function of signals related to the first, second, and third speed (V1, V2, V3).

15. (New) An assembly for conveying packets (2) comprising a first and a second conveyor (4, 5) for conveying the packets (2) at a first and a second travelling speed (V1, V2) respectively and extending side by side along at least a given portion (T) in a first direction (D1); and a transfer device (6) having a deflecting member (21) for transferring the packets (2) from the first (4) to the second (5) conveyor along said given portion (T); wherein the deflecting member (21) is movable back

and forth in the first direction (D1) along a linear path parallel to said given portion (T).

16. (New) An assembly as claimed in Claim 15, wherein said transfer device (6) comprises a guide (18) parallel to said first direction (D1); and a carriage (19) which runs along said guide (18); said deflecting member (21) being fitted to said carriage (19).

17. (New) An assembly as claimed in Claim 16, wherein said transfer device (6) comprises comprises a transmission member (23) for moving said carriage (19) along said guide (18).

18. (New) An assembly as claimed in Claim 17, wherein the first conveyor (4) comprises a first drive member (15) for conveying said packets (2) on the first conveyor at the first speed (V1); and the second conveyor (5) comprises a second drive member (16) for conveying said packets (2) on the second conveyor (5) at the second speed (V2); the assembly (1) comprising a differential (32; 41) connected to the first drive member (15) and to the second drive member (16) to move said deflecting member (21) along said given portion (T) at a given transfer speed (V3) as a function of the first and second speed (V1, V2).

19. (New) An assembly as claimed in Claim 18, wherein said differential is an epicyclic gear train (32) comprising a sun gear (33) connected to the first drive member (15); a planet carrier (34) connected to the second drive member (16); and a ring gear (35) connected to said transmission member (23).

20. (New) An assembly as claimed in Claim 19, wherein said deflecting member (21) comprises a third drive member (29) for rotating said deflecting member (21); and a control unit (37) for controlling said third drive member (29); said control unit (37) being connected to the first and second drive member (15, 16) to drive said third drive member (29) as a function of signals related to the first and second speed (V1, V2).

21. (New) An assembly as claimed in Claim 18, wherein said differential is an electronic differential (41), which emits a drive signal for driving a fourth drive member (42) for driving said transmission member (23).

22. (New) An assembly as claimed in Claim 21, wherein said deflecting member (21) comprises a third drive member (29) for rotating said deflecting member (21); and a control unit (37) for controlling said third drive member (29); said control unit (37) being connected to the first and second drive member (15, 16) and to said electronic differential (41) to drive said third drive member (29) as a function of signals related to the first, second, and third speed (V1, V2, V3).

23. (New) An assembly for conveying packets (2) comprising a first and a second conveyor (4, 5) for conveying the packets (2) at a first and a second travelling speed (V1, V2) respectively and extending side by side along at least a given portion (T) in a first direction (D1); and a transfer device (6) having a deflecting member (21) for transferring the packets (2) from the first (4) to the second (5) conveyor along said given portion (T); wherein the deflecting member (21) is movable back and forth in the first direction (D1) along a linear path parallel to said given portion (T); and wherein said transfer device (6) comprises a guide (18) parallel to said first direction (D1), and a carriage (19) which runs along said guide (18); said deflecting member (21) being fitted to said carriage (19).

24. (New) An assembly for conveying packets (2) comprising a first and a second conveyor (4, 5) for conveying the packets (2) at a first and a second travelling speed (V1, V2) respectively and extending side by side along at least a given portion (T) in a first direction (D1); and a transfer device (6) having a deflecting member (21) for transferring the packets (2) from the first (4) to the second (5) conveyor along said given portion (T); the deflecting member (21) comprising a drum (27) rotating about an axis (22) parallel to a second direction (D2)

perpendicular to the first direction (D1); wherein the deflecting member (21) is movable back and forth in the first direction (D1) along a linear path parallel to said given portion (T).